This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A tool management method executed by a ~~an intermediate~~ tool server apparatus coupled with a remote client system <u>via a first network</u> and <u>coupled with</u> a <u>plurality of tools</u> ~~tool~~ via a <u>second</u> network, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first request from the remote client system via the <u>first</u> network;

determining a first type of said first request based at least in part on a first predetermined field contained in said first request; and

.sending a first message to <u>one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~ <u>via the second network</u> in response to said first request and said first type, wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of said <u>one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~tool~~;

wherein the remote client system comprises a user interface to <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool utilizing a Web browser~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

determining an identification of a tool object corresponding to <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~ using a second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

3.   (Canceled).

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second message from <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~ associated with said first action; and

caching said second message.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote client system via the <u>first</u> network;

retrieving said second message; and

generating a response to said second request using said second message.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

sending said response to the remote client system.

7.   (Canceled).

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request from the remote client system; and

opening a connection to the remote client system, said connection being operable for communicating requests and responses to said requests.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote client system via the first network, said second request selected from the group consisting of information requests, expand requests and edit requests, wherein,

in response to said information requests, an HTML page is generated using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote client system,

in response to said edit requests, an HTML page is generated having a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute for sending to the remote client system, and

in response to said expand requests an HTML page is generated using a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified in said expand request for sending to the remote client system.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first type of said first request denotes an execute request.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of sending said first message is in response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first request.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of overriding said tool object method.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of overriding said tool object method comprises the steps of:

parsing a script source;

determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a method signature of said tool object method; and

if so, executing a corresponding portion of said script source.

14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said first request is transferred in accordance with the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), and said portion corresponds to a uniform resource locator (URL).

15.   (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

circuitry ~~operable~~ on a tool server, <u>coupled with a remote client system via a first network and coupled with a plurality of tools via a second network, configured to receive</u> ~~for receiving~~ a first request from <u>the</u> a remote client system via <u>the first</u> a network;

said circuitry <u>configured to determine</u> ~~operable for determining~~ a first type of said first request based at least in part on a first predetermined field contained in said first request; and

said circuitry <u>configured to send</u> ~~operable for sending~~ a first message to <u>one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~a tool~~ <u>via the second network</u> in response to said first request and said first type, wherein said first message is operable for controlling an action of <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~;

wherein the remote client system comprises a user interface to <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool utilizing a Web browser~~.

16.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

~~the~~ circuitry <u>configured to determine</u> ~~for determining~~ an identification of a tool object corresponding to <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~ using a second predetermined field in said portion of said request.

17.   (Canceled).

18.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising<u>:</u>

circuitry <u>configured to receive</u> ~~operable for receiving~~ a second message from <u>said one of said plurality of tools</u> ~~the tool~~ associated with said first action; and

circuitry <u>configured to cache</u> <s>operable for caching</s> said second message.

19.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 18 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote client system via the <u>first</u> network;

circuitry operable for retrieving said second message; and

circuitry operable for generating a response to said second request using said second message.

20.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 19 further comprising: circuitry operable for sending said response to the remote client system.

21.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a connection request from the remote client system; and

circuitry operable for opening a connection to the remote client system, said connection being operable for communicating requests and responses to said requests.

22.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote client system via the <u>first</u> network, said second request selected from the group consisting of information requests, expand requests and edit requests, wherein,

in response to said information requests, an HTML page is generated using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote client system,

in response to said edit requests, an HTML page is generated having a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute for sending to the remote client system, and

in response to said expand requests an HTML page is generated using a set of child object names and relations to a parent object identified in said expand request for sending to the remote client system.

23.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said first type of

said first request denotes an execute request.

24.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said step of sending said first message is in response to execution of a tool object method identified in said first request.

25.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 24 further comprising circuitry operable for overriding said tool object method.

26.   (Original) The data processing system of claim 25 wherein said circuitry operable for overriding said tool object method comprises:

circuitry operable for parsing a script source;

circuitry operable for determining if said script source includes a method signature matching a method signature of said tool object method; and

circuitry operable for executing a corresponding portion of said script source, if so.

27-38. (Canceled)

39.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second request from the remote client system via the first network; and

generating an HTML page using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote client system in response to said second request.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said HTML page has a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute.

41.   (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 15 further comprising:

circuitry operable for receiving a second request from the remote client system via the first network; and

circuitry operable for generating an HTML page using a set of selected data for a tool object corresponding to a managed tool for sending to the remote client system in response to said second request.

42.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 41 wherein said HTML page has a portion operable for user entry of one or more values for modifying a tool object attribute.

43-44. (Canceled)

45.   (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said first request is transferred in accordance with the hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP), and said portion corresponds to a uniform resource locator (URL).

46.   (Canceled).

47.   (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said first network and said second network utilize the same local area network.

48.   (New) The data processing system of claim 15 wherein said first network and said second network utilize the same local area network.